
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

December 10, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Kathy Bruni, Department of Social Services (DSS); Beth Leslie, Office of Protection and Advocacy (OP&A); Margy Gerundo-Murkette, State Department on Aging (SDA); Siobhan Morgan, Department of Developmental Services (DDS); Donna Ortelle, Department of Public Health (DPH); Amy Porter, Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

Others Present: Dawn Lambert, DSS; Karen Law, DSS; Tamara Lopez, DSS; Dane Lustila, DSS; Deanna Clark, DSS; Deborah Mignault, Commission on Aging (COA); Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates and Announcements

CT Home Care Program (CHCP): Kathy Bruni, Manager of the Alternate Care Unit at DSS provided an update of CHCP changes. Last winter, DSS issued a Request for Proposals for the CHCP Access Agency contracts that identified changes needed to standardize and streamline the process of provider enrollment, billing and payment. Effective July 1, 2013, related to the start date of the new CHCP contracts, several changes were implemented including: one fiscal intermediary, direct enrollment of home care providers through HP, and additional performance-based incentives.

Proposal to Combine Waivers - Personal Care Assistance and CT Home Care Program: At the June 2013 meeting, Planning Committee members agreed upon a strategic priority to work on in the coming year: Combine the elder and PCA waivers into one waiver for people age 18 and over with physical and cognitive disabilities. K. Bruni provided an update on the progress of this effort. A preliminary fiscal estimate has been completed by DSS. Kathy indicated that the next step is that she is pulling together a work group to continue to work on this initiative and will keep the Long-Term Care Planning Committee informed as work on this initiative progresses.

Rebalancing Ratio for SFY 2013: Barbara Parks Wolf reported on the rebalancing ratio for State Fiscal Year 2013 (see handout). Of the individuals receiving Medicaid long-term care services in SFY 2013, 58 percent were served in the community and 42 percent received care in an institution. This represents a two percent increase in the proportion of individuals on Medicaid

receiving long-term care services in the community over the previous year. With regard to long-term care expenditures for individuals enrolled in Medicaid, 43 percent were for services provided in the community and 57 percent were for institutional care. This represents a 2% shift from SFY 2012.

2013 Nursing Facility Fact Sheet: B. Wolf reviewed the results of the annual CT nursing facility census survey as of September 30, 2013 (see handout). A nursing home resident now pays on average \$390 a day for a semi-private nursing home bed or over \$142,000 for the entire year. This represents a rise in cost of 2.3 percent from the previous year cost of \$381 per day. Over the last five years, a total of 15 nursing facilities went out of business and three new ones were established. The average nursing facility occupancy rate as of September 30, 2013 was 90 percent, a one point decrease from 2012. Occupancy is calculated based on the ratio of the facility's number of licensed beds and the number of beds occupied as of September 30th.

State Plan on Aging: Margy Gerundo-Murkette informed the group that SDA staff began working on the new three-year State Plan on Aging this past October. They will be looking beyond the programs in SDA to include programs across state agencies.

Presentation: Update on Money Follows the Person Activities

A team from the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Program at DSS provided an update on current activities and initiatives (see handout).

Karen Law provided an update on:

- The federal Balancing Incentive Program to increase access to non-institutional services and supports. In December 2012 Connecticut was awarded \$72.8 million in enhanced federal match. Components are: a no wrong door/ single entry point system, conflict free case management services, and a core standardized assessment instrument.
- The nursing facility diversification request for proposals. Grant proposals are currently being reviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Commissioner by the end of the month. Awards will be made in January. Another RFP is expected to be released next year.

Tamara Lopes provided an update on:

- My Place CT (www.MyPlaceCT.org). This new website was launched on June 27, 2013, replacing and expanding the Long-Term Services and Supports website. A media campaign has been implemented to increase the visibility and use of the website as a one stop resource for information about long-term services and supports and careers and training.

Dane Lustila provided an update on:

- MFP Benchmarks. There were a total of 1,865 transitions from institutional settings to the community as of December 2, 2013.
- Demographics of individuals served by MFP and the nursing facility census.

- Current challenges – time and closed cases. In Connecticut’s MFP program there have been more closed cases than transitions to the community – 608 and 440 respectively in 2013. To address these challenges, the job of specialized care manager has been developed.

Deanna Clark provided an update on:

- Additional changes:
 - Competency based training for transition coordinators
 - Improved web-based case management system
 - On-line application
- New supports and services:
 - Changes to administration of medication - administration of medication by certified home health aides and automated medication dispensers (med boxes)
 - Adult family living
 - New MFP demonstrated services – informal caregiver supports, substance abuse recover coach and independent support brokers

Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

Deborah Mignault of the Commission on Aging, sitting in for Julie Evans Starr, co-chair of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Executive Director of the Commission on Aging, provided an update on Advisory Council activities. Judith Stein, Executive Director of the Center for Medicare Advocacy, spoke to the Advisory Council twice about the work of the National Long-Term Care Commission, to which she has been appointed, and the Commission’s alternate report. Last month, Kate McEvoy, CT Medicaid Director, spoke to the Advisory Council about various Medicaid initiatives. The Advisory Council continues to be concerned about eligibility delays in the Medicaid program.

D. Mignault also provided an update on the work of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Task Force. The group has been meeting since September, with three sub-committees developing recommendations. A draft of the final report was given to the Task Force last week for comments. The Task Force’s report is due to the legislature by January 1st.

Other Business

No other business was raised.

Meeting Schedule for 2014

Tues., June 10th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB
 Tues., September 9th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB
 Tues., December 9th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.